

From: angie derosa [mailto:itsangiederosa@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2011 3:04 PM
To: Giannaros, Elizabeth
Subject: Testimony in Support of HB5530

Hello,

My name is Angie DeRosa and I am a sophomore at Naugatuck High School. The purpose of my writing to you is to urge the idea of passing this bill. As a long time vegetarian of almost four years and apparent supporter of animal rights, I am distressed at the thought of having to dissect an innocent animal for the sole purpose of just passing a course. Students' ethical and religious objections to harming animals as part of our education should be respected. There are plenty of alternatives that can be made which have shown to be effective as an actual dissection. For example the use of modernized, non-animal, interactive computer programs not only save the lives of animals each year, but they also are more economical than animal dissection. Both the National Science Teachers Association and the National Association of Biology Teachers support the dissection choice policies. If that's not enough to help change your mind, then I don't know what else is! There are currently fifteen states--including Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and New York--have laws or policies allowing students to opt-out of dissection. If a student is not interested in pursuing a career in science after high school, they shouldn't be subjected over their preference in learning style. With that in mind, I hope I have encouraged you to make the right decision in allowing this law to pass.